ABORTION

What Is the Bible Truth?

"...you know not...how the spirit comes to the bones in the womb of a pregnant woman..."

—Ecclesiastes 11:5, Amplified

By David Alsobrook

THE BIBLE TRUTH ON

ABORTION

Do you hove bloody hands or a bleeding heart?

By David Alsobrook

Contents

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Foreword:

"my mother might have been my grave"

In 1973 the Supreme Court of the United States made a fateful decision in a landmark case. The justices ruled in *Roe vs Wade* that the termination of unborn life is a legal right. On January 22, 1973 the United States Supreme Court ruled that a woman had "a right to privacy" broad enough to include abortion. This was declared to be her basic constitutional right. The court further stated that "legal personhood does not exist prenatally" thus striking down all laws against abortion in all 50 states. Our noble nation has since witnessed the abortion of more than seventeen million of her unwanted citizens.

Recent polls reveal a rude awakening in the minds of previously unconcerned millions. They are alarmed by the ugly reality of abortion. Armed with both scientific fact and moral logic, there are many in every strata of society energetically supporting numerous efforts to rectify the present wrong. Not since the abolitionist movement of the previous century has America witnessed such a long and sharpened debate. Not since Lincoln has the religious conscience of our country protested so loudly over a national practice.

Most Americans who profess an actual conversion experience to Jesus Christ are overwhelmingly opposed to the legalized slaughter of unborn human life. In my travels and countless conversations with Christians, this subject invariably rises on a fervent and continuing basis. The reasons I usually hear from believers for opposing abortion are based on the great philosophical and moralistic values traditional with our culture.

During a recent trip while driving alone with the Lord for many hours I heard His clear and unmistakable voice: *"Too few believers base their convictions on abortion solely and squarely on the Word of God."* As I continued down the highway in the precious communion of the Holy Ghost my

heart was strangely warmed. Jesus opened the Scriptures to me in a new way! I would like to share some of these truths with you. Jeremiah said, *"My mother might have been my grave"* had he died in the womb (Jeremiah 20:17). We are going to study about those who are killed in the womb from the Bible point of view...

1

Modern Molech Worship

One of the abominations ancient Israel sometimes copied from their heathen neighbors was the practice of molechism. From what I have been able to gather*, it was a large idol, half-man and half-bull, with a hollow abdomen. Under the enlarged genitals of the bull part of the image, a fire burned until the hollow abdomen glowed with heat.

The ancient idolaters danced and performed various types of sexual activity with several partners in front of this false god. The reveling continued until a small child, a son or daughter of one of the orgy participants, was thrown alive into the red hot abdominal cavity. The child was seared to death—its shrieks and cries only inciting greater mass hysteria. The burnt remains were removed from the other side of Molech the following day, after the idol had cooled.

As shocking as it may sound, God's ancient people, Israel, who had experienced the one and true God through His covenant with the Patriarchs, sometimes backslid into Molech worship! Such a base form of idolatry may be partially understood in the ignorant heathen unto whom the Living God was not revealed. What is difficult to comprehend is how a people who had seen the wondrous acts of Yahweh could be so greatly deceived! In either case, the conscience was seared because basic morality teaches man to care for his young.

* The Moabites and Ammonites (who were despised by godly Israelites for their ungodly lifestyle) were devoted worshipers of Molech, or "Chemosh" as it was known by the Moabites. "Molech" means "king" and was named "Amuna-Ra" in Egypt which means "king of the gods." Some scholars think a large plate of polished metal in front of the idol's hideous countenance was heated onto which worshipers threw their children alive following unspeakable immoralities. See Dake's Annotated Reference Bible and Wilson's Old Testament Word Studies for more information. Especially notice the following scriptures: Numbers 25:1-3; 1 Kings 14:22-24; 2 Kings 16:3-4; 2 Chronicles 28:3-4; Jeremiah 19:4-5; Ezekiel 16:20-22.

Israel was further without excuse because God Himself warned them specifically through His servant Moses *before* they entered Canaan:

> "There shall not be found among you any one that maketh *his son or his daughter to pass through the fire...*For all that do these things are an abomination unto the LORD: and because of these abominations the LORD thy God doth drive them out from before thee" (Deuteronomy 18:10,12).

When the psalmist was recounting these sad lapses in Israel's history, he plainly said the sacrificing of children was demon worship. The children who were thus killed were innocent, and the blood-polluted land cried out for God's judgment. As a result, Israel found themselves in shame and impoverishment, taken over by their enemies. Note carefully this passage and see if you can find a modern parallel in our "civilized" nation:

> "Yes, they even sacrificed their sons and their daughters to the demons. They shed innocent blood...till the land was polluted with blood...therefore the Lord's anger burned against His people...He turned them over to the control of the nations. Those who hated them ruled over them" (Psalm 106:37-41, *Berkely).*

The observance of Molech worship was an idolatrous practice which brought swift and terrible judgment on Israel. As already stated, the Molech idolaters performed various types of sexual activity in front of their false god as a prelude to sacrificing their innocent children. IN PRINCIPLE OUR NATION IS DOING EXACTLY THE SAME THING! Unrestrained sex in the name of "liberation" has resulted in a large proportion of the unwanted aborted pregnancies. An updated version of Molech worship is alive in our present day as millions engage in unbridled promiscuity. The children so conceived are killed in the abdomens of modern idolaters as they throw their children on the fire plate of Molech in worship to the god of sex! Molech worship is indeed alive today across our land, as this word from Ezekiel clearly shows:

> "The LORD said moreover unto me; Son of man, wilt thou judge Aholah and Aholibah? yea, declare unto them their abominations; They that have committed adultery, and blood is in their hands, and with their idols have they committed adultery, and have also caused their sons, whom they bare unto Me, to pass for them through the fire, to devour them...Thus saith the Lord GOD; I will bring up a company upon them, and will give them to be removed and spoiled" (Ezekiel 23:36-37,46).

If America falls and ceases as a nation, I am persuaded of the Lord that it will be due to moral rather than military weakness. The erosion of America's founding values will result in barrenness and desolation. America's only hope is a deep and sincere repentance. Otherwise our great land, for whom I weep, will not be healed. Judgment is coming! There are many parallels between ancient Israel and modern America.

> "If My people, which are called by My name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land...But if ye turn away, and forsake My statutes and My commandments, which I have set before you, and shall go and serve other gods, and worship them; Then will I pluck them up by the roots...everyone that passeth by it...shall say, Why hath the LORD done thus unto this land?..And it shall be answered, BECAUSE THEY FORSOOK THE LORD GOD OF THEIR FATHERS...and laid hold on other gods..." (2 Chronicles 7:14; 19-22).

Wake up, America! Your gods have deceived you and are leading you down the road to unrelenting judgment from the hand of Almighty God who established this great nation for our fathers who trusted in Him.

One of the greatest abominations of these United States is the multitudinous slaughter of the unborn. Our society condones and even encourages the offering of the fruit of our bodies because of the sin in our souls (see

Micah 6:7). God is not mocked: whatever a man or a nation sows will ultimately be reaped (see Galatians 6:7-8). All the nations who forget God will be judged more severely than those who have never known Him (see Psalm 9:16-17; Luke 12:47-48).

Listen, America, to the eternal Word of God:

> "AND THOU SHALT NOT GIVE ANY OF THY SEED TO MAKE THEM PASS THROUGH THE FIRE TO MOLECH; NEITHER SHALT THOU PROFANE THE NAME OF THY GOD: ***I AM JEHOVAH***" (Leviticus 18:21, *American Standard Version).*

2

You "Breathed" Before You Were Born!

One of the two most common words used for an infant in the Greek New Testament is *brephos.* Scholars define *brephos* as "a breathing, nursing infant" *(Thayer, Wuest Vincent Vine* and others).

This word is used a total of eight times by Luke, Peter, and Paul. The latter two writers each used *brephos* only once. Peter used it in a metaphorical sense. He instructed the believers he was writing to desire the sincere milk of the Word "as newborn babes" (1 Peter 2:1). Note, please, the adjective "newborn" in connection with "babes" *(brephos).* Peter emphasizes the earliest stages of infancy. Paul used it in a literal sense of Timothy's instruction in the Holy Scriptures since infancy (see 2 Timothy 3:15).

Luke used this Word five times in his Gospel (1:41, 44; 2:12, 16; 18:15) and records Stephen as using it one time in Acts (7:19). Luke used *brephos* to denote the Savior at birth as well as the babies Jesus touched during His ministry. Stephen, in his inspired answer to the high priest, used *brephos* in reference to all the Hebrew males who were, by Pharoah's decree, under the sentence of death as soon as they were born (see Acts 7:19; also Exodus 1:15-22). I have shown you these examples to demonstrate the fact that *brephos* refers to a newborn infant who cannot do much else besides breathing and nursing. In classical Greek literature the famed poet, Homer, likewise used *brephos* to denote a newborn baby.

Now to my point: the one Gospel writer who had a detailed medical background, "Luke the beloved physician" (Colossians 4:14), not only used *brephos* of breathing, nursing infants as we have just seen, but also used *the same word to denote an UNBORN child!*

> "And it came to pass, that, when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the *babe* leaped in her womb; and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost...For, lo, as soon as the voice of thy salutation sounded in mine ears, the *babe* leaped in my womb for joy" (Luke 1:41,44).

In both verses the only physician ever used by God in the recording of sacred Scripture used *brephos* to describe the condition of John the Baptizer while he was still in his mother's womb!

One may ask how an unborn child could be a *brephos,* that is "a breathing, nursing infant." The answer is seen by the simple fact that the fetus both "breathes" and receives nourishment through the umbilical cord proceeding from the placenta. In open heart surgery, what is known as a "cardiopulmonary bypass" is performed to enable the patient to receive oxygen in the bloodstream. Although the lungs are artificially ventilated during this procedure (to prevent collapse), they do not oxygenate the blood during the surgery.

This is the same method which God long ago designed for a living, though unborn, child to receive the vital oxygen necessary for life. Truly, the inspired Gospel of Luke is correct in referring to John as a *brephos* when he was a six-month-old fetus.

This fact clearly disproves the twisted attempt of some liberal clergymen who seek to dismiss abortion as non-homocidal. "A fetus becomes a person at the moment the first breath of air is inhaled" says the usual argument with a backup quote from Genesis 2:7. "And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul." True, the first time Adam breathed was through his lungs, but, as we have seen, those who enter this world by birth "breathe" long before their lungs inhale.*

The word "abort(ion)" itself refutes the argument that

* Dr. William J. John, a personal friend, informs me of common medical knowledge: at the end of the first trimester the fetus breathes fluid steadily although the baby receives its oxygen from the umbilical cord. At birth the lungs continue the breathing movements inhaling air.

life begins only at birth. The New American Edition of *Webster's Encyclopedia of Dictionaries* defines the word figuratively, "to fail to come to fruition." The life principle, therefore, must be already in effect prior to fruition. This is evident in nature all about us. The life principle placed within a plant by the Creator causes the fruit of the plant to bud forth and mature. The life is in the fruit before it bursts forth out of the ground.

In human abortion the life principle placed by the Creator in the procreative process is medically interrupted. It is brought to an end before the gestation cycle has completed the birth of a child. Were the life principle not disrupted by man, the plan of God would result in the fruition of birth.

Fruition proves the life principle has successfully completed its natural course. Murder has long been defined to mean the unjustified taking of a human life. Murder prevents an individual from completing the natural course of life. If a fetus is allowed to remain unmolested, the unborn will continue to complete the life cycle began by God Himself in the creation of the first man. The deliberate destruction of a *brephos* before it is delivered from the mother's body is no different in the Creator's eyes than destroying the helpless infant after birth. And this act is particularly heinous when committed by one whose supposed career is saving life.

Birth does not create life, but manifests a life already created. The creation and procreation of mankind is a mysterious marvel understood solely by faith in a supernatural God. "Know ye that the LORD He is God: *it is He that hath made us,* and not we ourselves..." (Psalm 100:3).

If we did not make ourselves we are deliberately provoking the One who made us when we interfere with His work in making others. "These...doth the LORD hate...hands *that shed innocent blood"* (Proverbs 6:16-17). Picture the *hands* of a physician who took the Hippocratic oath promising to never knowingly administer any drug that would injure life. Picture, also, the *blood* of the *innocent* victim which is always *shed* in a nation which

claims God as her trust! The pursuit of life, liberty, and justice for all is guaranteed by our Constitution. How long will God bless a nation operating contrary to His Word?

A deranged dictator destroyed innocent lives during the tragedy we know as "The Holocaust,"* but two and a half times *more* innocent lives have been destroyed through abortion.

The Christian should confess national sins and plead with God for His mercy to extend to that one's natural country. Daniel confessed the sin of his people in addition to his own sins (see Daniel 9:20). Can you say with Ezra, "I fell upon my knees, and spread out my hands unto the LORD my God, and said, O my God, I *am ashamed and blush* to lift my face to Thee, my God: for our iniquities are increased over our head, and our trespass is grown up unto the heavens" (Ezra 9:6)?

Ezra not only confessed the national sins of his people, he also promised to withhold affinity with the people who committed those sins. He went on to pray "Should we again break Thy commandments, and join in affinity with the people of these abominations? Wouldst not Thou be angry with us...?" (Ezra 9:14). Here we have divine sanction to issue a call across the land in protest of this unwarranted holocaust.

Perhaps you have participated in the destruction of an innocent life and your heart is burdened with guilt. As grievous as the sin of abortion is, the blood of Jesus Christ can totally cleanse it from your life. You must vocally acknowledge the sin to God in prayer and renounce whatever hold Satan has on your life as a result of the sin. Receive the gracious forgiveness of God and forgive yourself, purposing to follow Jesus all the days of the rest of your life. ***"And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I***

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* The word holocaust is a Hebrew term used repeatedly in the Book of Leviticus. The Jewish people titled Hitler's attempt of their annihilation "The Holocaust" as a graphic picture relating back to the Old Testament sacrifices. It literally means (holo) "whole, entire" and (caust) "burnt offering." The children offered to Molech and Baal were literal holocausts (whole burnt offerings) themselves as we saw in the former chapter.

condemn thee: go, and sin no more" (John 8:11).

To the physician who has performed abortions, God's Word instructs: *"Clean your hands, you sinners!"* (James 4:8, *Berkely).* A murderer long ago prayed, "Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, thou God of my salvation: and my tongue shall sing aloud of Thy righteousness" (Psalm 51:14).

3
Known In The Womb

A very beautiful passage in the Psalms is found in 139:13-16. I would like to quote it for you here in the American Standard Version of 1901:

> "For Thou didst form my inward parts: Thou didst cover me (marg. "knit me together") in my mother's womb. I will give thanks unto Thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: Wonderful are Thy works; And that my soul knoweth right well. My frame was not hidden from Thee, When I was made in secret, And curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Thine eyes did see mine unformed substance and in Thy book they were all written, Even the days that were ordained for me, When as yet there was none of them."

Like the Ethiopian eunuch I ask, "...of whom speaketh the prophet this? of himself, or of some other man?" (Acts 8:34). If Philip were writing this message he would begin at the above passage and preach Jesus. I am quite sure of this and that he would be right. Without a shadow of doubt, the inspired psalmist, David, is speaking of the "Son of David" (Matthew 15:22). Clearly we see the pre-incarnate Word describing His gestation period in Mary's virgin womb. The next two verses are no coincidence, either, for they describe the sweet communion and intimacy our Lord had with His Father during the nine months of Mary's pregnancy:

> "How precious also are Thy thoughts unto me, O God!
>
> How great is the sum of them! If I should count them, they are more in number than the sand: When I awake, I am still with Thee" (Psalm 139:17-

18).

The unborn *brephos* who was later named JESUS had a multitude of thoughts in Mary's womb. He knew about sand (because He had made it) and was very aware of the Father's presence, both in His waking and sleeping periods in her body. Science has discovered in recent times that an unborn child does indeed sleep and wake.

And, yet, what is said here of our Lord Jesus could be said in verse 13-16 of David himself, or of you or me. "Wonderful are Thy works," David exclaimed. James admonished, "Known unto God are all His works from the beginning of the world" (Acts 15:18).

In Isaiah 49:1,5 we see again a passage that relates to our Savior and also to us: "Yahweh called me before I was born, from my mother's womb He pronounced my name...He who formed me in the womb to be His servant" *(Jerusalem Bible).* How similar to the word of the Lord which came to Jeremiah! "Before I fashioned you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I dedicated you; I designated you for a prophet to the nations" (Jeremiah 1:5, *Berkely).*

Nor did this apply only to Jeremiah. God is not partial. He is no respecter of persons (see Acts 10:34; Romans 2:11).

God formed and fashioned each of us in our mother's womb. Before we were born He knew us and planned our life's work. He saw us as a person when we "breathed" through our mother's umbilical cord (as we discussed in the previous chapter). True, if a man accidentally struck a pregnant woman while fighting with her husband and she miscarried he was not put to death, yet he was fined according to whatever her husband determined (see Exodus 21:22-24). This was not because a life had not been lost, but because two men were involved and the miscarriage was an unintentional result. The woman's husband may have provoked the fight himself and been the greater offender of the two men.

A person has feelings. A person has emotions. And the unborn infant of Elisabeth showed his when he got a few

feet from the unborn infant of Mary! "...the babe *(brephos)* leaped in my womb *for joy" (*Luke 1:44).

Nor can we find scriptural evidence of animals being filled with the Holy Spirit. Yet John was filled with the Holy Ghost (Luke 1:41) right on the spot! This refutes the theory that unborn humans are much like fish eggs! God only fills ***people*** with the Holy Spirit, and He filled John when he was six months from his conception. Praise God!

In our main text from Psalm 139 we see some interesting points looking more closely into the original wording. The word "frame" in verse 15 ("substance" in the King James Version) refers to the frame of bones; the skeleton with its external covering of ligaments, tendons, muscles, arteries, nerves, and skin!

This word can also be translated, simply by another word: BODY!

Notice too, the "frame" was "made in secret." How like the inside of the uterus! Hidden away from everyone's eyes but the loving Creator's.

The words "unformed substance" in verse 16 (Hebrew: *golem)* refers to the embryonic stage of development. It refers to an undeveloped fetus, the parts of which are not yet unfolded or developed.

Notice, as the King James Version brings out in verse 16, that the various parts of the little, growing body are continually coming into being when there is not yet any single part fully developed. The blueprint for the human body is in heaven, or as David put it, "in Thy book."

The Scriptures unequivocally teach that the Heavenly Father is beholding the growing, developing bodies of the unborn. He observes their movements and hears their thoughts. He shares their feelings, too, as He did with John.

What a stab it must be to His heart to see these little ones suffer and die! The burning of the saline injection or the breaking of those precious bones in the suction aspirator angers the Creator far greater than any artist whose masterpiece is vandalized.

> "...for he who touches you touches the pupil of His eye..." (Zechariah 2:8).

I don't know about you, but I sure don't want to poke God in the eye!

4
The Dignity and Sacredness Of Life

When the Creator breathed into man's nostrils the spirit (the same word also means *breath)* of life, man became "a living soul" (Genesis 2:7). The Hebrew word is *nepheshema.* God breathed into the lifeless clay image He had perfectly formed after His own likeness and man became a "nepheshema," the Bible says. The root word is *nephesh* which refers to the natural life force. In Leviticus 17:11 the Bible teaches that animals also have "nephesh," or, the natural life force, and this life force is present in the blood. This is the reason the Israelites were not to eat the blood of animals as explained in Leviticus 17:10-14*. The life element in the blood of animal sacrifices provided a *kaphar* (atonement, covering) for the sin of Israel.

Man likewise had this natural life force placed in him by God. However, let us understand that man was not merely a "nephesh," but a "nepheshema." The suffix "ema" means that man was more than nephesh. Man was given a spiritual life force as well as the natural life principle. Observe that the animals were also formed out of the ground, as was man, but God did not breathe the spirit of life into their nostrils (compare Genesis 2:7 and 19). This proves that the Creator's breathing into man was not solely for the purpose of natural life. Animals have natural life, but as already stated, God did not breathe the spirit of life into them. The natural, physical, biological life of man is quite similar to that of animals (i.e., mammals). This is due to the fact that both man and mammal were formed out of the ground.

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* The words "life" and "soul" used throughout these verses are the Hebrew word *nephesh.* It is a derivative of *naphash* which means "a breathing creature."

In man alone, however, there is a separate and unique element: *the breath out of the mouth of Yahweh.* God imparted something from Himself into the clay form which became man. This explains why the killing of an animal is not on the same level as the killing of a man. This also shows us "there is a spirit in man" (Job 32:8) and proves that the humanistic philosophy that man is merely an advanced animal is ludicrous.

Job, in referring to the creation of man, acknowledged, "I also am formed out of the clay" (Job 33:6), but only after he had exclaimed concerning his inner self: "The Spirit of God hath made me, and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life" (v. 4).

There is a sacredness and dignity connected with any human life. The dismembered parts of a fetus, the scrapings from the pregnant uterus, are more than mere "tissue." Listen through a stethoscope to the distinct heartbeat in a mother's womb and tell yourself there isn't a living person inside!

There is only one Book written thousands of years ago that could so graphically address the evilness of modern man! To His natural people, Israel, the Lord often spoke of His care and protection for the fatherless in their society (see Psalm 10:14, 18; 68:6; 146:9; Hosea 14:3). He promised blessings upon those who shared His care for orphans (see Psalm 82:5; James 1:27). The problem in that day was children who had no father*. In ours they have no mother! How does Yahweh Elohim feel about the "motherless"? How applicable this scripture is to our day.

> "When you were born, your navel cord was not cut, nor were you washed with water to cleanse you, nor were you rubbed with salt or swaddled with bands. No eye had compassion or took pity on you to attend to any of those needs; but you were thrown out upon the open field with no

* In the Bible a child who had lost his or her father was viewed as an orphan even if the mother was alive. This was due to the fact a woman could not support her family by ethical means in most circumstances. Notice that James instructs believers to "visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction." A child who had lost its father was "fatherless" and its mother a widow.

> appreciation for your life on the day you were born. But as I passed by you and saw you weltering in your blood, I said to you in your blood: 'Live!'" (Ezekiel 16:4-6, *Berkely).*

To see God's view on those killed in the womb does not require a fanciful imagination. We could paraphrase it partly this way:

> "When you were aborted no eye had compassion or took pity on you…but you were thrown in a plastic garbage bag with no appreciation for your life…But as I passed by you…I said to you in your blood: 'Live!'"

The only solace to those whose hearts ache for the aborted people in our nation and throughout the world is that our Heavenly Father passes by the abortion clinics and med-centers saying "Live" to those man has killed. Our Exalted Savior receives them unto Himself. Of this I am quite sure:

> "And they brought unto Him also infants *(brephos),* that He would touch them…and said, Suffer (permit) little children to come unto Me…for of such is the kingdom of God" (Luke 18:15-16).

In recent years, with the development of modern life-sustaining devices, the medical profession has come to define death as that point in time when the brain waves cease. To be consistent, we must logically conclude that there is life when the brain waves are first detected, about the sixth week of pregnancy. Yet, even in the face of such conclusive scientific evidence, many would continue to violate the dignity and sacredness of life because of personal preference. They prefer to define life in terms of what one wants or what is convenient. This is a dangerous course to follow. For if life can be ended as a matter of convenience, what protection remains for the elderly—or those handicapped—who no longer make a meaningful contribution to society?

5

God Will Defend The Fatherless

The above title is taken from a verse of scripture (Psalm 10:17-18) in which God is portrayed as the One who will defend and vindicate the fatherless and the oppressed. His attitude of vindication for the innocent is seen in numerous scriptures. We will look at a few such verses in this chapter to gain a scriptural basis of understanding as to why abortion is so terribly offensive to God.

"All unrighteousness is sin" (1 John 5:17), but this verse does not mean, as is often implied, that all sin is the same in God's eyes. There is some sin greater than other sin as the context of this often quoted verse itself shows (i.e., "a sin unto death").

Jesus told Pilate, shortly before he condemned Him, "...he that delivered Me unto thee hath *the greater sin"* (John 19:11). While it is true that God views hatred of one's brother as murder (see 1 John 3:15), the attitude of hatred defiles the *heart* of the hater, but not his *hands.* I am truly sorry for anyone who hates me as I know this is a sin in the eyes of God. However, I prefer their attitude of hatred toward me far more than I would their action of murder against me!

There are numerous kinds of sins. Yet there are only seven that God has singled out as especially detestable in His sight. Please do not misunderstand me—God hates ALL sin—however, the Word of God tells us of seven especially abominable sins which grieve the heart of God. They are listed in Proverbs 6:16-19 and have been often sermonized as "The Seven Deadly Sins."

The third sin in the list is "...HANDS THAT SHED INNOCENT BLOOD..."

The Life of the Physical Body Is in the Blood

Shortly after Noah and his family came out of the Ark the Bible tells us God introduced several new commandments which He had never before given. One of these was: *"Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed:for in the image of God made He man"* (Genesis 9:6). Government calls this "capital punishment." Some would say Jesus annulled this in His teachings as recorded in the Gospels. Upon careful scrutiny of His teachings in Matthew 5-7 and Luke 8 the serious Bible student must conclude that our Savior was teaching His followers concerning *personal offenses* they would suffer for righteousness' sake. The Apostle Paul concurs in Romans 13. Civil officials are actually the servants of God carrying out His wrath upon the evil doer! (Note especially verse 4.) Paul's initial readers clearly understood the phrase "he beareth not the sword in vain."

Others argue against capital punishment on the supposed basis that it was first sanctioned under the Law of Moses and thus no longer under the Grace period in which we now live. Not only does Romans 13 clearly refute that premise, as we have noted, our text in Genesis 9 also disproves it. This law in Genesis 9:6 was given many centuries before the Law of Moses was given. The rainbow proves the Noahic covenant is still in effect (see Genesis 9:12-17).

God established the life principle, or *nephesh, IN THE BLOOD* as seen previously. Centuries ago "the father of medicine" devised an oath to which the physicians for ages have sworn. Part of **The Oath of Hippocrates** says, *"I will give no deadly medicine to anyone if asked nor suggest such counsel, and in like manner, **I will not give to a woman a pessary (instrument) to produce abortion."*** Most American medical students no longer include this part of the oath. Their omission reveals gross hardness of heart.

The Shedding of Innocent Blood Brings Judgment

Cain was the first to discover this truth! God told the

murderer: "What hast thou done? *the voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto Me from the ground"* (Genesis 4:10). The next statement from the Lord spoke of the severity of Cain's act. *"And now art thou cursed* from the earth, which hath opened her mouth to receive thy brother's blood from thy hand" (v. 11). Cain escaped death to pay for his innocent brother's murder because the commandment of life for life had not yet been given. Still we can observe several principles:

1. Innocent blood cries to God for vengeance. (see also Revelation 6:9-11);
2. Murder brings a curse from the earth (all ancient societies had laws of capital punishment for murder);
3. A murderer doesn't realize at first what he or she has done ("What hast thou done?" Cain did not realize immediately what awful sin he had committed—it took awhile to sink in).

Let us now notice briefly, a number of verses which plainly teach that killing innocent life incurs divine retribution:

1. In Exodus 23:7 the Lord made it clear He would not wink at the sin of murder against an innocent person. "...and the innocent and the righteous slay thou not: for I will not justify the wicked."
2. In Psalm 94:21-23 the psalmist declares that those who "condemn the innocent blood" will themselves be "cut off in their own wickedness."
3. A national policy which permits murder without retribution is a grievous sin which ultimately results in divine judgment. Cities of refuge were established in Israel "that innocent blood be not shed in thy land, which the LORD thy God giveth thee for an inheritance, and so blood be upon thee" (Deuteronomy 19:10). For the innocent blood King Manasseh shed (see 2 Kings 21:16) judgment came in the days of Jehoiakim through Nebuchadnezzar (see 2 Kings 24:1-4). Notice especially, "And also for the innocent blood that he shed: for he filled Jerusalem with innocent blood; *which the Lord would not pardon"* (2 Kings 24:4).

4. A physician who performs abortion for financial gain is under severe judgment. How applicable are the words of Deuteronomy 27:25 in our day! *"Cursed be he that taketh reward to slay an innocent person."* What person could be more innocent than an unborn child?

A Mark of Protection for the Brokenhearted

In Ezekiel 9 we are permitted a vision of the spiritual drama preceding an actual judgment against a wicked nation. A man (angel) with an inkhorn was summoned before the God of Israel. He was instructed to "Go through the midst of the city...and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and cry for all the abominations..." (v. 4). Those who sighed and cried over the abominations of Jerusalem were spared in the subsequent judgment (vs. 5-6).

It is not enough to withhold mental or emotional sanction of the homicidal practices of our nation. It is not enough to refrain from participation in those practices. We must sigh and cry out to God for all our national sins, including abortion, and implore Him for a true and lasting revival. Our land must be healed.

The principle from Ezekiel 9, as it relates to our specific study on abortion, would seem to be that *everyone* is involved in some way. Either our hands are bloody through direct involvement or indirect silence against this crime, or our hearts are bleeding for the innocent victims who cannot cry out in their own defense. Bloody hands or a bleeding heart...which have you?

Cry out against the innocent lives killed in the secret places (see Psalm 10:8). Unless our country reverses the error of 1973, our nation is headed for doom and desolation. Heed these words from the ancient prophet Joel:

> "Egypt shall be a desolation, and Edom shall be a desolate wilderness, for the violence against the children of Judah, BECAUSE THEY HAVE SHED INNOCENT BLOOD IN THEIR LAND" (Joel 3:19).

6

What Shall We Then Do?

I wish to devote this chapter to those who:

—have had an abortion, or

—are contemplating one, or

—are grieved over this national sin and want to see it stopped!

If you have ever had an abortion, please, I beg you in Jesus' Name, do these things:

1. Sincerely repent of having had the abortion. Confess this regrettable deed as a murder!
   - If you have not given your life to Jesus Christ be assured He will accept you. The judgment for your sin of murder has already been paid by the precious blood of Christ. "I solemnly assure you that the man who hears what I have to say and believes in the One who has sent Me has eternal life. *He does not have to face judgment he has already passed from death unto life"* (John 5:24, *Phillips).*
   - If you had committed your life to Jesus Christ prior to having an abortion you knowingly committed a horrible sin, but it is not the unpardonable sin. Confess to God vocally in Jesus' Name that you took an innocent life and pray for His forgiveness. Thereafter, meditate on the following verses often: Isaiah 55:6-7; Hosea 14:1-4; John 8:11; 1 John 1:7; Revelation 7:13-14.
2. Receive the Lord's gracious healing balm for the wounds in your emotions as a result of the sin.
   - Jesus bore our sorrows, griefs, failures, and mistakes, too! (Isaiah 53:4). Jesus took your guilt and regret so you can live free from the

condemnation of Satan, who loves to accuse us of our past (see Romans 8:1; Revelation 12:11).

- Vocally renounce any "curse" you brought upon yourself as a result of this sin. Deuteronomy 27 and 28 reveal many curses that come upon individuals because of various sins. I have had many women come for prayer who, after committing murder by abortion, were either unable to conceive or to carry to full term. Barrenness is many times a natural result of this sin, but it can be healed (see Genesis 20:17-18). The good news is that Jesus took the curse in our place (see Galatians 3:13). However, it is not automatic and we must appropriate the breaking of curses in our lives. For example, say aloud, *"Father, I not only confess the sin of abortion, I also renounce and break the curse of shedding innocent blood through the merit of the precious blood of Jesus. I stand against all the effects of the curse in my womb and in my life."*
- Command any evil spirits in your life to leave you in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. They will flee (see Mark 16:17; James 4:7; Luke 10:17-20).

3. Refuse to gaze back on this sorry episode knowing the aborted child is present with the Lord (see Luke 18:15-16; Philippians 3:13; Luke 9:62).
4. Purpose to follow Jesus and let Him (re)make you! (see Matthew 4:19; Philippians 1:6). "And He that sat upon the throne said, Behold, *I make all things NEW"* (Revelation 21:5).

If you are tempted to have an abortion, please stop and ask yourself:

1. Am I willing to take an innocent life?
   - Could you commit cold-blooded murder? There is a life inside of you (see Galatians 6:7). If you take that life you will be sowing future trouble for your descendants as well. "...for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate Me" (Exodus 20:4).

2. Can I live with myself later?
   - It is a well-documented fact that in many cases women experience emotional trauma for long years afterward. Through Jesus Christ God has graciously made the provision for this trauma to be healed. However, the restoration of the soul sometimes requires a long and difficult period of time. This is not because God is punishing the woman, but because she will often punish herself with the devil's help.
3. Are there others who would love to adopt my baby?
   - Yes! Over a million couples are eagerly waiting, usually five years and longer, to adopt a child. God will forgive you of the immorality which resulted in the unwanted pregnancy if you will ask Him. Then carry the baby to full term and release the child to others who will provide a loving home. There are several Christian organizations who are actively providing good homes for children born in such circumstances. I'll be happy to send you a list of them upon your request. To children given up for adoption there is a blessed promise. "When my father and my mother forsake me, then the LORD will take me up" (Psalm 27:10).
4. Am I willing to forfeit another's life for my own convenience?
   - Abortion is fast becoming an alternate form of birth control for many girls. In a few short hours a life is taken and the mother is free to take another life if she is later faced with the same problem.
   - Middle-aged wives become pregnant and decide they are too old to raise another child. Many of the world's remarkable people in every field of endeavor were born to parents in later life. We have many examples in the Bible (such as Isaac, Samuel, Samson, etc.). Jesus saved the best wine for last (see John 2:10). Remember, "It is He that hath made us, and not we ourselves" (Psalm 100:3). A Christian couple can pray in faith that God's will shall be done in regard to a late pregnancy. The Lord can quicken

a middle-aged woman's body to receive strength (see Mark 11:23-24; 1 Peter 2:24). God promises strength all your days (see Deuteronomy 33:25; Psalm 8:2; Isaiah 40:31). As we delight ourselves in the Lord, He will give us the desires of our heart (see Psalm 37:4). An abortion will never solve your problem.

If you are grieved over this national sin and want to see it stopped, please consider these things:

1. The weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but are supernaturally powerful through God to the pulling down of strongholds. When our personal obedience is complete, we will then be able to revenge all disobedience (please meditate on 2 Corinthians 10:3-6).
2. Our enemies are not people, but the demons behind them (see Ephesians 6:12).
3. God loves the grossest of sinners. Stand against the sin, but let the sinners know you love them and desire them to change for their good (see Luke 19:1-10; John 8:7). "Amazing Grace" was written by a former slave trader.
4. Abortion is the outward manifestation of an inward problem in the heart of many Americans (and other nations). "For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed...murders...all these evil things come from within, and defile the man" (Mark 7:21,23).
5. Spend much time in prayer. Call church fasts in behalf of our national sins to see a true revival that will shake this country for God (see Joel 2:12-17).
6. Letters to your congressmen and elected officials are commendable (see Isaiah 58:1). Warn them that voting for abortion will defile their hands with blood (see Isaiah 59:3-7). But do not salve your conscience by a petition, ballot or a letter. If you are led by the Lord to march in front of an abortion clinic, make sure you are doing so in the right spirit. Some have seen many saved through this means; others have caused unnecessary offense (study 1 Corinthians 13; 2 Corinthians 6; Colossians 3:17). Remember, "all have

sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). Thank God, we have not come short of His love!

7. Use the Word of God in your reasons for opposing abortion. "For the Word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than *any* two-edged sword..." (Hebrews 4:12). The two-edged sword we refer to here, are the abortion instruments. Human logic doesn't carry as much power! Praise God! (Meditate upon Jeremiah 1:12; Matthew 24:35; Luke 1:37).

Finally, I would ask you to distribute quantities of this book as the Lord leads you (see page 31).

7

How To Answer Unbelievers

Suppose you were asked by a total stranger why you, as a Christian, are opposed to our national policy and practice of abortion. How would you answer?

Christians frequently use the same arguments, philosophies, and logic to oppose abortion as non-Christians use. I am not degrading the use of logic and basic moralistic philosophy. However, I have discovered the Word of God is far more powerful. And there are other reasons I use the Word of God. My Example continually used the Scripture in His public and private discourses. Philosophy has its distinct limits. Because it is based on the rudiments of the world and the tradition of men it can dissipate into the humanistic philosophy abounding in our culture. In the final analysis it can even spoil believers who do not guard themselves (see Colossians 2:8).

The Christians in the early era had to learn how to give a proper answer to anyone who asked them about their hope. Peter advised, "Be ready at any time to give a quiet and reverent answer to any man who wants a reason for the hope you have within you" (1 Peter 3:15, *Phillips).* Notice the tone of voice—"quiet and reverent." I have learned that "a soft answer" does indeed "turn away wrath" (Proverbs 15:1). So often a Christian will speak in an almost belligerent tone. He may indeed win the argument, but lose a soul in the process.

Obviously, you could not share with many, if any, unbelievers the depth of the Word contained in this book because spiritual things must be spiritually discerned (see 1 Corinthians 2:10-14). Nevertheless, "Like apples of gold in settings of silver so is a word spoken at the right moment" (Proverbs 25:11, *Berkely).* A prophecy of the Messiah in Isaiah 50:4 says that He would have "a word in

season" for the one who was weary. It is not only our words, be they ever so exact, but the way we say those words which will determine the ultimate effect. People remember your spirit long after they forget the exact words you told them.

Following are some basic pro-abortion arguments, along with two or three verses one might share in refutation. This list is by no means exhaustive, or even complete, but it will serve as a guide. In John 14:26, Jesus said the Holy Spirit will quicken our memories with His Word. Rely on the Holy Spirit when speaking to an unbeliever for *any* reason.

argument TO HAVE AN ABORTION IS A WOMAN'S RIGHT!

answer: The Bible says "anyone who kills an innocent person must be put to death" (Genesis 9:6). It is written in the Holy Scriptures that "the life of the body is in the blood" (Leviticus 17:11). The Bible teaches it is wrong to slay an innocent person (Exodus 23:7). It is an "abomination" (an especially detestable sin) in God's sight to do this (Proverbs 6:16-17). The Bible never gives anyone a right to kill anyone else without a just reason (2 Kings 24:4).

argument A FETUS IS ONLY A BLOB OF TISSUE AND NOT A PERSON.

answer: The Bible says that John was a breathing infant in his mother's womb in Luke 1:41,44. (Explain how the fetus "breathes" through the umbilical cord God created.) John experienced joy and was filled with the Holy Spirit! The Psalmist David said he had thoughts (intelligence) while in his mother's womb (Psalm 139:15-17). Tissue doesn't think—-people do.

argument: A PERSON HAS A RIGHT TO BE LOVED AND CARED FOR.

answer: Yes, and if the mother believes she cannot do this she should not take an innocent person's life, but give that person to those who will care for him or her (Psalm 27:10). God puts the solitary into loving families (Psalm 68:5-6). Over a million couples are presently waiting to adopt.

argument ABORTION IS THE BEST WAY TO TAKE CARE

OF A MISTAKE.

answer: The Bible teaches it is wrong to add sin unto sin (Isaiah 30:1-2).

argument PREGNANCY IS ONLY A BIOLOGICAL PROCESS.

answer: The Word says, "It is He that hath made us, and not we ourselves" (Psalm 100:3). God said He knew Jeremiah before he was born (Jeremiah 1:5). God loves you so much He made mention of your name when you were in your mother's womb! (Isaiah 49:1). God knows all His works from the foundation of the world (Acts 15:18). To interfere with His work is like poking Him in the eye (Zechariah 2:8). We are clay and God is the Potter and we have no right to tell Him what to do with His creation (Isaiah 64:8; Jeremiah 18:1-6; Romans 9:21).

argument: GOD UNDERSTANDS THAT SOMETIMES THERE IS NO OTHER WAY OUT.

answer: The Bible says God will make a way when there seems to be no way out! (Jeremiah 32:17; 1 Corinthians 10:13; Hebrews 4:15-16). If we call upon Him He will answer us perfectly (Jeremiah 33:3; James 1:5-7).

argument: IF ABORTION IS MURDER, WHY DOES GOD ALLOW IT TO CONTINUE ON AND ON?

answer: Because He is slow to anger and of great mercy (Psalm 145:8). He has no pleasure in the death of the wicked (Ezekiel 18:30-32; 2 Peter 3:8-9). He gives even the most wicked time to repent (Revelation 2:21). He waits until the cup of iniquity is full, but when His fury comes none can withstand His anger (Genesis 15:16; Psalm 18:41).

I believe you get the idea. You do not have to speak the Word exactly as it is written to have powerful effect. It is permissible to paraphrase, even as Paul did some of his quotes from the Old Testament in his writings, but do be as exact as you can be. This puts the responsibility on you, the believer, to study God's Word diligently (see 2 Timothy 2:15) and to give warning to the wicked. What if they do not hear you? You have done your part and they are without excuse (see Ezekiel 3:17-21; Acts 20:27; John

15:21-22).

8

There Is Hope!

This book has presented some sobering truths. The Holy Word of God is abundantly clear on this subject. America has been graciously blessed by the hand of the God who founded her. I have an uneasiness about the future of this land of liberty when I ponder the words of an old preacher: "Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil" (Ecclesiastes 8:11). A poet said, "The wheels of God grind exceeding slow, yet they grind exceeding fine." The only thing that will stop the wheels of judgment is real repentance. Repentance must begin in the church (see 1 Peter 4:17) **before** the nation will turn to the Lord (2 Chronicles 7:14). Our land can be healed, ONLY if we, God's people, take the initiative and cry out for mercy for our sins.

Rejecting the miracle-working power of Christ is a worse sin for the religious person than homosexuality is for the non-professing individual! Capernaum was known as a "clean" town, yet Jesus promised it would be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment! (see Matthew 11:23-24). As much as God hates homosexuality (see Romans 1:24-29; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11) and other sexual sins, He is even more intolerant of religious hypocrisy (see Matthew 21:31).

"Behold, Thou desirest truth in the inward parts" (Psalm 51:6). Jesus wants us to make the inside of the cup clean first, and then not to leave the other undone (see Matthew 23:23-26).

Truly, things look bad at the present time as we view the natural and spiritual situation in this country. Yet, there are some rays of hope. More and more elected officials decry the slaughter in our nation. We have been

blessed with a president who has not wavered in the face of intense pressure from ungodly people. Still, we have not seen the turnaround our nation must have to continue in God's favor.

"Then will the LORD be jealous for His land and pity His people" (Joel 2:18). This ray of hope was promised after the call to national fasting, prayer, and repentance was issued in the previous seven verses.

Let me share a beautiful thought with you that ignited a new flame of hope in my heart when I first heard it.

We were sitting in a restaurant following a service. The couple with whom we were eating were precious old friends. They have known the Lord for awhile and have diligently sought His face. The subject of abortion came up during our conversation and the wife said, "Oh, do I have something to share with you!" There was a gleam of joy in her eye.

"Sure, JoAnn," I said, "share with us what the Lord has given you."

"You know what?" she queried, "A lot of innocent babies were being slaughtered in Egypt a long time ago. What happened as a result?"

I thought for a moment and replied, "God raised up Moses, or Israel's deliverer."

"Exactly," JoAnn continued, "and what happened shortly after the birth of our Savior?"

"A lot of babies were killed?" Dianne offered.

"Yes, and that was about 1,600 years later", our hostess added. "Now what is happening again over 1,900 years since?" she pondered once more.

Like a flash we saw where she was headed and laughed for joy and delight...

> *"Thus saith Jehovah: A voice is heard in Ramah lamentation, and bitter weeping, Rachel weeping for her children... and one of the elders saith unto me,*
>
> *Weep not behold the Lion that is of the tribe of*

> *Judah, the Root of David hath overcome..." (Jeremiah 31:15, Revelation 5:5, ASV)*

...which proves joy does indeed follow sorrow (Revelation 22:20).

Now that you have read the truth will you help me spread it?

I believe that truth of God's Word has ministered to your heart in this timely book. Will you do your part to help inform others, especially Christians, concerning the scriptural basis for opposing abortion?

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